

PUBLIC NOTICE
TOWN OF FOREST
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORATE
Forest Town Hall
1895 County Road D
June 7, 2021 7:00pm

The Town Board of the town of Forest has scheduled a Special Town Meeting of the Electorate to provide the electorate and landowners with information the town is considering in relation to borrowing funds to complete significant road improvements in the town of Forest. **(The Town of Forest Long-Term Road Plan).**

Additionally, the electorate is offered to cast advisory votes at the Special Town Meeting to the Town Board that will be counted and used by the board at their immediately following town board meeting. Electorate votes will be an objective measure and demonstrate the support of the overall plan, along with elector's comments from the meeting will act as advisory information and data to the board. The Town of Forest Long-Term Road Plan may be taken up for vote at the town board meeting on the same day following the Special Town Meeting. The town is exploring the preparation of a portion of the town's total gravel roads (roughly 30% to 50% of the Forest roads) in anticipation of the subsequent paving of the selected roads.

The plan includes analysis of substantial work to make the selected gravel roads strong candidates for long-term paved road improvement. Work includes but is not limited to: 1) Replacing culverts 2) Digging out clay spots and filling 3) Top dressing and or adding up to 3 inches of base where necessary 4) Compacting 2 foot shoulders 5) Paving with 2.5 inches or 3.0 inches where heavier farm equipment is used in the town.

Why is the town of Forest considering this project now? Because of escalating gravel and labor costs both in the last five years and the expected increases in future years' material, labor, gravel, and trucking, replacing gravel and grading roads has become cost prohibitive. At the same time with the most favorable interest rate environment in decades, the annual interest expense on the proposed project would be less than the cost of material, and hauling, and spreading two miles of town gravel road with 2.5 inches of gravel. Pavement is considered a favorable alternative to gravel roads for a number of reasons including, eliminating wasted gravel plowed into the ditch, pavement is a better and smoother ride, potential land value increases with driveways coming off paved roads vs gravel roads and more consistent and safer travel routes for buses, ambulance and fire safety vehicles as well as other vehicles.

A long-term road improvement plan will be presented, each mile or portion of road improvement being considered to be improved will be described, periodic repayment plans will be demonstrated, additional principal payment plans will be described and additional information relating to the project being assessed will be provided. A question and answer period will be completed and public comments will be taken. Finally, an advisory vote of the electorate will be conducted. Following the Special Town Meeting the town board will take up the agenda topic as follows in the town's noticed board meeting:

Review the Town of Forest Long-Term Road Plan as communicated at the Special Town Meeting of the Electorate, consider adjustments communicated by the electorate, consider the electorate comments and the electorates' advisory vote, and possible action relating to borrowing up to \$1,150,000 to be used towards preparation and paving town roads selected by the Forest Town Board. Consider borrowing resolution and possible action.

The town gravel roads being considered, but which may be adjusted are:

1. 210th Ave from 310th to County Road P
2. 320th Street from County Road Q North to 230th Ave. (A previously milled mile)
3. 230th Avenue for two miles West of County Road P to County Road Q.
4. 290th Street from County Road Q to 230th Avenue. This road is scheduled to be milled first.
5. 280th Street between 200th and 210th Avenue
6. 270th Street from 210th Avenue to 220th Avenue
7. 200th Avenue between 280th and 290th Street
8. 300th / 205th / 310th which is 1.2 miles of connected road in section 23 of the town
9. Several miles of 290th.

It is important that interested electors and landowners attend this special session in order for your input to be considered. Although state law allows only electors to vote, all land owners are invited to attend.

Anne Johnston, Town of Forest Clerk